GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:555
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2007
NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT CHANNELS
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of news and entertainment channels telecasting their programmes in the country separately, State-wise;

(b) the number of channels operated under Indian ownership and foreign partnership separately, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating any legal set up for regulation of such channels;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by when such regulation is likely to be framed; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

(a) : As on 15.11.2007, the Ministry has permitted 149 news & current affairs TV channels and 106 non-news & current affairs TV channels to uplink from India. Five (5) TV channels, uplinked from abroad, have also been permitted to downlink in India. In addition to this, 52 TV channels, uplinked from abroad, have been provisionally permitted to downlink in India. The permissions are for operation on an all-India basis and are not State-wise.

(b) : Out of the total 255 channels permitted to uplink from India, 123 channels have Indian ownership whereas 132 have varying components of foreign equity in the parent company. Out of the total 57 TV channels, uplinked from abroad and permitted to downlink in India, 2 TV channels have Indian equity whereas the remaining 55 TV channels have foreign equity.

(c) to (f): The Ministry is considering the proposed draft of the Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill. The said Bill is still at drafting stage and is under consultation with States/UTs and other stakeholders. No time frame can be given for finalization of the said Bill as consultation is an on-going process.